

Poetry Pauses for Argument Writing

POEMS, TOPICS, AND QUESTIONS CHART

Poem	Topic	Questions
<p>“When We Were Kings” by Rachel Wiley</p> <p>Rachel Wiley - When We Were Kings - YouTube</p>	Gender Stereotypes	<p>What is Rachel Wiley’s central argument in this poem?</p> <p>Which lines make this argument most impactful?</p>
<p>“Ten Responses to the Phrase ‘Man Up’” by Guante</p> <p>Kyle “Guante” Tran Myhre - Ten Responses to the Phrase ‘Man Up’ - YouTube</p>	Gender Stereotypes	<p>What common phrases do you hear people use that express underlying stereotypes?</p> <p>In his argument, what does Guante reveal are the costs of telling boys to “man up?”</p>
<p>“Totally like whatever, you know?” by Taylor Mali</p> <p>Taylor Mali Totally like whatever, you know - YouTube</p> <p>paired with</p> <p>“Like Totally Whatever” by Melissa Lozada-Oliva</p> <p>Melissa Lozada-Oliva - Like Totally Whatever - YouTube</p>	Language and Power	<p>What argument is Mali making? What do you agree or disagree with in this argument?</p> <p>How does Lozada-Oliva counter this argument in her poem?</p>
<p>“Complainers” by Rudy Francisco</p> <p>Rudy Francisco - Complainers - YouTube</p>	Hardship and Loss	<p>How does Francisco support his argument that people complain too easily and too often?</p> <p>Why are the specific details in his evidence more powerful than sweeping broad statements?</p>

<p>“cuz he’s black” by Javon Johnson</p> <p>Javon Johnson - cuz he’s black - YouTube</p>	<p>Race and Police</p>	<p>What is Johnson’s central argument in this poem?</p> <p>How does using small narrative introduce an argument in this poem?</p> <p>What lies have you heard adults tell children?</p>
<p>“Camaro” by Phil Kaye</p> <p>Phil Kaye - Camaro - YouTube</p>	<p>Memory and Loss</p>	<p>What is something worth splurging on?</p> <p>What is a decision you made in your life that you will remember forever?</p>
<p>“Explaining my Depression to my Mother” by Sabrina Benaim</p> <p>Sabrina Benaim - Explaining My Depression to My Mother - YouTube</p>	<p>Mental Health</p>	<p>In this poem, Benaim catalogues several common “solutions” loved ones may offer to someone with depression. How does she counter each solution?</p>